

Application Serial No. 09/901,736
Reply to Office Action of August 12, 2003

Patent
Attorney Docket No. CU-2590

the authorization to charge the fee of \$950 to Deposit Account No. 12-C400. No other fee is believed to be required, but, if this is not the case, please charge any additional fee or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 12-0400.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.

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Amendments To The Claims
(In The Revised Format)

The listing of claims presented below will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. (previously presented): A scratch layer transfer sheet having a transferable scratch layer that is transferable to a transfer-receiving material in presence of heat, the scratch layer transfer sheet comprising:

a substrate film; and

a the transferable scratch layer having a multilayer structure; disposed on surface of the substrate film, the transferable scratch layer ~~having a multilayer structure~~ comprising:

a pattern layer formed pattern-wise on selected portions of the substrate surface;

a hiding layer formed on the portions of the pattern layer and on the substrate surface not covered by the portions of the pattern layer,

wherein the pattern layer and the hiding layer are transferable to a being able to be thermally transferred to the print surface of a the transfer-receiving material in presence of heat with the hiding layer covering the print surface of the transfer-receiving material and the pattern layer visibly showing the pattern, and being able

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wherein the pattern layer and the hiding layer are
removable to be removed from the print surface by scratching
the pattern and hiding layers transferred onto the transfer-
receiving material, and

~~after it is transferred wherein the pattern layer and the~~
~~hide layer of the multilayer structure of the transferable scratch~~
~~layer are disposed in the order of the pattern layer and the hide~~
~~layer with the pattern layer disposed closest to said substrate~~
~~film, and~~

further wherein, when the areas respectively occupied by
said pattern layer and said hiding layer are compared with each
other, the proportion of the area occupied by the pattern layer
(pattern ratio) is in a range from 5 to 85% per 2 cm² of the
transferred scratch layer.

2. (original): The scratch layer transfer sheet according to Claim 1, wherein
said hiding layer comprises a hiding material and a binder.
3. (original): The scratch layer transfer sheet according to Claim 2, wherein
said hiding layer is formed of a heat meltable ink comprising an aluminum pigment,
a carbon black, a wax and an ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer resin.
4. (original): The scratch layer transfer sheet according to Claim 1, wherein the
area of one partition of the transferable scratch layer of said scratch layer transfer
sheet is in a range from 30 to 150% based on the maximum area of the print

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surface of the transfer-receiving material to which the transferable scratch layer is to be transferred.

5. (previously presented): The scratch layer transfer sheet according to Claim 1, wherein said transferable scratch layer after being transferred to the transfer-receiving material has a level of HB or less, and further wherein the level of HB relates to the pencil scratch value prescribed in the Japanese Industrial Standard (JIS).

6. (previously presented): The scratch layer transfer sheet according to Claim 1, wherein said transferable scratch layer further comprises a first peeling layer so that said first peeling layer, said pattern layer, and said hiding layer of said multilayer structure of said transferable scratch layer are disposed in the order of said first peeling layer, said pattern layer, and said hiding layer with said first peeling layer disposed closest to said substrate film.

7. (cancelled):

8. (previously presented): The scratch layer transfer sheet according to Claim 1, wherein said pattern layer is provided with pattern comprising a firm name, a logo or a specific mark.

9. (cancelled):

10. (previously presented): The scratch layer transfer sheet according to Claim 1, wherein said pattern layer contains at least one binder selected from a wax and a thermoplastic resin and/or a coloring agent.

11. (previously presented): The scratch layer transfer sheet according to Claim

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1, wherein said transferable scratch layer further comprises a second peeling layer so that the pattern layer, the second peeling layer, and the hiding layer of the multilayer structure of the transferable scratch layer are disposed in the order of said pattern layer, said second peeling layer and said hiding layer with the pattern layer disposed closest to said substrate film.

12. . (previously presented): The scratch layer transfer sheet according to Claim 6, wherein said transferable scratch layer further comprises an adhesive layer so that said first peeling layer, said pattern layer, said hiding layer, and said adhesive layer of said multilayer structure of said transferable scratch layer are disposed in the order of said first peeling layer, said pattern layer, said hiding layer, and said adhesive layer with said first peeling layer disposed closest to said substrate film.

13. (original): The scratch layer transfer sheet according to Claim 12, wherein said adhesive layer which is primarily constituted of a rubber type resin.

14. (original): The scratch layer transfer sheet according to Claim 13, wherein said rubber type resin is at least one type selected from the group consisting of an ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer resin, its modified product and a copolymer of an ethylene monomer, a vinyl acetate monomer and other monomers.

15. . (previously presented): The scratch layer transfer sheet according to Claim 1, said scratch layer transfer sheet further comprising a transferable protective layer having either a monolayer structure or a multilayer structure and being provided with at least a main protective layer protecting a print surface, wherein the transferable protective layer and said transferable scratch layer are alternately

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provided side by side on said substrate film.

16. (original): The scratch layer transfer sheet according to Claim 15, wherein said main protective layer is primarily constituted of at least a wax or a thermoplastic resin.

17. (previously presented): The scratch layer transfer sheet according to Claim 15, wherein said transferable protective layer further comprises an adhesive layer so that said adhesive layer and said main protective layer of said multilayer structure of said transferable protective layer are disposed in the order of said main protective layer and said adhesive layer with said main protective layer disposed closest to said substrate film.

18. (previously presented): The scratch layer transfer sheet according to Claim 15, wherein said transferable protective layer further comprises a peeling layer so that said peeling layer and said main protective layer of said multilayer structure of said transferable protective layer are disposed in the order of said peeling layer and said main protective layer with said peeling layer disposed closest to said substrate film.

19. (original): The scratch layer transfer sheet according to Claim 1, said scratch layer transfer sheet further comprising a coloring agent transfer layer, wherein the coloring agent transfer layer and said transferable scratch layer are alternately provided side by side on said substrate film.

20. (original): The scratch layer transfer sheet according to Claim 19, wherein said coloring agent transfer layer contains a coloring agent which is optically

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distinguishable.

21. (original): The scratch layer transfer sheet according to Claim 19, wherein the color of said coloring agent transfer layer is different from the color of said transferable scratch layer.

22. (original): The scratch layer transfer sheet according to Claim 19, wherein said coloring agent transfer layer is a heat meltable ink layer.

23. (original): The scratch layer transfer sheet according to Claim 22, wherein said heat meltable ink layer contains carbon black as a pigment.

24. (original): The scratch layer transfer sheet according to Claim 19, wherein the area of one partition of said coloring agent transfer layer is different from the area of one partition of said transferable scratch layer.

25. (original): The scratch layer transfer sheet according to Claim 1, the scratch layer transfer sheet further comprising a transferable protective layer and a coloring agent transfer layer, wherein the coloring agent transfer layer, the transferable protective layer and the transferable scratch layer are alternately provided side by side on the substrate film.

26-53 (withdrawn)